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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/001,643	12/31/1997	RUSS L. ALBERT	1431/USW0391	6919

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, CONG LAC T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/001,643

Applicant(s)

ALBERT ET AL.

Examiner

Cong-Lac Huynh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: RCE filed on 6/2/03 to the application filed on 12/31/97.
2. Claims 1-12 are pending in the case. Claims 1 and 8 are independent claims.
3. The rejections of claims 1-4, 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand in view of Walker have been withdrawn in view of the amendment.
4. The rejections of claims 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand in view of Walker and further in view of Melchione have been withdrawn in view of the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

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consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1-4, 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand et al. (US Pat No. 5,710,900, 1/20/98) in view of Moy (US Pat No. 5,425,102, 6/13/95, filed 6/9/94).

Regarding independent claim 1, Anand discloses:

- a host site connected to at least one user computer terminal via an on-line interconnection, said host site comprising a database for storing the sale information and inventory information, and a processor terminal connected to the on-line interconnection for receiving a user report request and sending reports created in response to the received requests and additional on-line user input (col 1, lines 5-7, 54-67; col 2, lines 1-4; col 2, lines 14-25, 31-34, 39-41; col 9, lines 16-32; col 6, lines 43-67; col 7, lines 1-13, figures 6, 10-11)
- a view manager arranged to generate a set of function commands which can be selectively launched by user input to graphically display a list of available views each of which contains a report relating to particular user information stored in a database, create a new view and report, and edit a view and report (col 2, lines 14-25, 31-34, 39-41, figures 6, 10-11)

Anand does not disclose relating data maintained independently from the host site and input by a user with the user's billing and inventory data for displayed as part of a requested report, wherein at least a portion of the data maintained independently from the host computer site and input by the user is displayed as part of the requested report.

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Moy discloses that a user provides a password hints to the security system to help the user in recalling his/her password when accessing the protected data files (col 2, lines 11-36 and figure 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Moy into Anand to include that missing feature for the following reason. It was well known that each user has to enter his/her password to access a billing service to check the balance or related billing information. It was also well known that to easily recall a password, the user inputs a hint sequence or a password hint to the service when creating the password where said hint data can be changed whenever the user wants to change the password. Therefore, said hint data is maintained by the user independently from the host site. The fact that the hint sequences inputted by the user in Moy to the security system suggests that said hint sequences can be displayed as part of the billing report in Anand to remind the user of his/her password since said password hint helps the user to save time in recalling his/her password when accessing the billing service.

Regarding claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Anand discloses that the view editor is arranged to receive and implement user report editing instructions (col 2, lines 39-41; col 9, lines 33-57).

Regarding claim 3, the system of Anand discloses a graphical user interface for the user to interact with the system (figures 6-10; col 2, lines 2-14).

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Regarding claim 4, Anand discloses the aggregating method such as add, average, min, max, count to disclose the change in the Smart Report (col 17, lines 65-67; col 18, lines 1-50). Anand also discloses the drill down command (col 9, lines 16-32, col 10, lines 50-67).

Regarding claim 6, which is dependent on claim 1, the system of Anand discloses an Internet connection and web browser (col 2, lines 15-25, client and server system, col 4, lines 53-57, Reports in HTML format imply that the system is connected to the internet so that a web document can be sent over).

Regarding claim 7, which is dependent on claim 1, Anand discloses that the graphical interface comprises Java applets and an HTML page (col 9, lines 16-57).

Claims 8-11 are the method for generating an on-line report performed on the system of claims 1-4, therefore rejected under the same rationale.

8. Claims 5, 12 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand in view of Moy as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Melchione et al. (US Pat No. 5,930,764, 7/27/99).

Regarding claim 5, which is dependent on claim 1, Anand and Moy do not disclose that the report filter is arranged to receive user define value for use as threshold value to

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selectively control which database information will be included in a report. Melchione discloses the three-tier-hierarchy provides the "key" at each of the household, customer, and customer levels that satisfy user criteria for queries, views, and reports (col 16, lines 45-64). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Melchione into Anand and Moy because Melchione provides the criteria as a threshold to select which data from the database to be included in the report.

Claim 12 is the method to be performed on the system of claim 5, and therefore rejected under the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicants argue that Anand and Walker do not disclose relating data maintained independently from the host site and input by a user with the user's billing and inventory data for displayed as part of a requested report, wherein at least a portion of the data maintained independently from the host computer site and input by the user is displayed as part of the requested report since the PIN number in Walker can not be displayed as part of the billing report.

Examiner agrees.

Walker is withdrawn from the rejections.

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Moy, in combination with Anand, suggests the argued feature.

Moy discloses that a user provides password hints to the security system to help the user in recalling his/her password when accessing the protected data files (col 2, lines 11-36 and figure 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Moy into Anand to include the argued feature for the following reason. It was well known that each user has to enter a password to access a billing service to check the balance or related billing information. It was also well known that to easily recall this password, the user inputs a hint sequence or a password hint to the service when creating the password where said hint data can be changed whenever the user wants to change the password. Therefore, said hint data is maintained by the user independently from the host site. The fact that the hint sequences inputted by the user in Moy to the security system suggests that one of said hint sequences can be displayed as part of the billing report in Anand to remind the user of his/her password since said password hint helps the user to save time in recalling his/her password when accessing the billing service.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Smith (US Pat No. 4,513,175, 4/23/85).

Cauffman et al. (US Pat No. 5,325,290, 6/28/94).

Yuen (US Pat No. 5,423,033, 6/6/95, filed 9/30/92).

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Terry et al. (US Pat No. 5,495,600, 2/27/96, filed 6/3/92).

Yanor (US Pat No. 5,842,174, 11/24/98, filed 4/10/95).

Lavin et al. (US Pat No. 5,772,585, 6/30/98, filed 8/30/96).

Nelson (US Pat No. 6,032,132, 2/29/00, filed 6/12/98).

Velez et al. (US Pat No. 6,064,375, 5/16/00, filed 6/30/98).


Van Horne et al. (US Pat No. 6,286,039 B1, 9/4/01, filed 4/8/98, priority filed 8/28/97).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cong-Lac Huynh whose telephone number is 703-305-0432. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 703-308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 707-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9000.

clh
July 9, 2003


HEATHER R. HERNDON
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